

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims, cancel claims 44 to 47 without prejudice, and add new claims 48 to 51 as follows:

1.-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) A purified ~~polypeptide~~ antibody or functional fragment thereof, comprising:

an amino acid sequence ~~substantially~~ at least 75% identical to the amino acid sequence of ~~the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, or SEQ ID:3 and a combination thereof,~~ wherein said polypeptide antibody or functional fragment thereof being capable of binding binds to at least one of low density lipoproteins (LDL) and oxidized LDL (oxLDL).

28. (Currently Amended) The purified ~~polypeptide~~ antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said ~~polypeptide~~ antibody or functional fragment thereof is capable of binding at least one of LDL cholesterol and oxidized LDL cholesterol (oxLDL cholesterol).

29. (Currently Amended) The purified ~~polypeptide~~ antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said ~~polypeptide or a fragment thereof and the low density lipoproteins (LDL) and low density lipoproteins~~ or said oxidized LDL (oxLDL) occurring in human and other animal bodies have complementary carbohydrate structures.

30. (Currently Amended) The purified ~~polypeptide~~ antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said ~~polypeptide~~ antibody or functional fragment thereof is ~~an antibody or a functional fragment of said antibody.~~

31. (Currently Amended) The purified ~~polypeptide~~ antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said ~~polypeptide~~ is a functional fragment of a member is selected from the group consisting of V_L, V_H, F_V, F_C, Fab, Fab' and F(ab')₂.

32. (Currently Amended) The purified ~~polypeptide~~ antibody or functional fragment thereof according to ~~Claim 31~~ claim 27, wherein said ~~polypeptide~~ antibody or functional fragment thereof includes an amino acid sequence of a variable region of the light

chain (V_L) is substantially at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO:1, or an amino acid sequence of a variable region of the heavy chain (V_H) is substantially at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO:3, or is at least 80% identical to both of said amino acid sequences of said variable regions of said light chain (V_L) and said heavy chain (V_H).

33. (Currently Amended) The purified polypeptide antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 31, wherein said polypeptide antibody or functional fragment thereof includes a ~~nucleic acid~~ sequence of a variable region of the light chain (V_L) is substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:2, a ~~nucleic acid~~ sequence of a variable region of the heavy chain (V_H) is substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:4, or both said nucleic acid sequences of said variable regions of said light chain (V_L) and said heavy chain (V_H).

34. (Currently Amended) The purified polypeptide antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 31, wherein said functional fragment contains an amino acid fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3.

35. (Currently Amended) The purified polypeptide antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 31, wherein said functional fragment contains an amino acid sequence fragment that is substantially at least 80% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3.

36. (Currently Amended) The purified polypeptide antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said polypeptide antibody or functional fragment thereof is substantially at least 85% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

37. (Currently Amended) The purified polypeptide antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said polypeptide antibody or functional fragment thereof is substantially at least 85% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

38. (Currently Amended) The purified polypeptide antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said polypeptide antibody or functional fragment thereof contains ~~nucleic acid~~ a sequence[[s]] ~~that are~~ substantially at least 90% identical to ~~the nucleotides 67-69 (CDR1), 145-165 (CDR2) and 262-288 (CDR3)~~ of SEQ ID NO: [[2]] 1.

39. (Currently Amended) The purified polypeptide antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said polypeptide antibody or functional fragment thereof contains ~~nucleic acid~~ a sequence[[s]] ~~that are~~ substantially at least 90% identical to ~~the nucleotides 91-105 (CDR1), 148-198 (CDR2) and 295-330 (CDR3) of SEQ ID NO:[(4)] 3.~~

40. (Currently Amended) The purified polypeptide antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said polypeptide antibody or functional fragment thereof is a monoclonal antibody.

41. (Currently Amended) The purified polypeptide antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said polypeptide antibody or functional fragment thereof is produced by a hybridoma.

42. (Currently Amended) A purified polypeptide antibody or functional fragment thereof comprising an amino acid sequence ~~selected from the group consisting of the~~ comprising ~~amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, the amino acid sequence of or~~ SEQ ID NO:3 ~~and a combination thereof.~~

43. (Currently Amended) A purified antibody or functional fragment thereof comprising a complementary-determining region (CDR), or a functional fragment of said complementary-determining region, comprising an amino acid sequence ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ [Ser-Gly-Asp-Lys-Leu-Gly-Asp-Lys-Tyr-Ala-Cys (CDR1) or Gln-Asp-Ser-Lys-Arg-Pro-Ser (CDR2) or Gln-Ala-Trp-Asp-Ser-Ser-Ile-Val-Val (CDR3) of SEQ ID NO:1], or [Ser-Tyr-Ala-Met-His (CDR1) or Val-Ile-Ser-Tyr-Asp-Gly-Ser-Asn-Lys-Tyr-Tyr-Ala-Asp-Ser-Val-Lys-Gly (CDR2) or Asp-Arg-Leu-Ala-Val-Ala-Gly-Lys-Thr-Phe-Asp-Tyr (CDR3) of SEQ ID NO:3.] ~~and a combination thereof.~~

44.-47. (Cancelled)

48. (New) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said antibody or functional fragment contains a sequence at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:1.

49. (New) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said antibody or functional fragment contains a sequence at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:3.

50. (New) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said antibody or functional fragment contains a sequence at least 98% identical to SEQ ID NO:1.

51. (New) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said antibody or functional fragment contains a sequence at least 98% identical to SEQ ID NO:3.